

# Ready Now!



*VADM Debbink and Virginia ESGR Field Committee Honor Tidewater Virginia Employers for Extraordinary Support of Employees who Serve in the Navy Reserve*

Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2010

Shipmates,

This month we honor the many employers who support Navy Reserve Sailors in their service to our country. Whether leading large corporations, small businesses, government organizations or self-employed, these employers enable our Navy Reserve Sailors to serve America on a part-time basis and to be ready for full-time duty when called – and to return to work when their service is complete. They are doing far more than just providing our Sailors with the full-time jobs they need to support themselves and their families!

The support we enjoy from our employers is overwhelming and worthy of our thanks and honor. As we visit with Reserve Sailors and employers across the country, we are amazed and humbled by the stories we hear from Sailors whose employers have found innovative ways to support their Reservists.

Some companies provide additional pay so service members don't experience a financial loss when they are deployed. Some arrange help with household chores, lawn service, tutoring, child care, and car maintenance. Some arrange farewell sendoffs and welcome home picnics when a service member is mobilized. Others send care packages and phone cards to their deployed Sailors to let them know their service is appreciated.

Part of this is patriotism, and part of it is good business – Navy Reserve Sailors make great employees! We are professional, organized, positive, decisive, cool under pressure, physically fit, mentally acute, and faithful to the core Navy principles of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. We are leaders at all levels – loyal, dedicated, and highly motivated.

Although employing Navy Reserve Sailors is a win-win situation for the employer, we should never take the support of our employers for granted. That's where we, their employees, come in by honoring and thanking our civilian employer and our fellow employees for their support.

We honor them every day with our hard work. We honor them by going the extra mile, just as we do in the Navy. We honor them by living up to our core values of honor, courage and commitment, on and off the job. We honor them by keeping them informed about upcoming duty, so they can plan for our absence.

We can also honor them by recognizing their support formally. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award is a great way to show our bosses we appreciate all they do to make our service possible. It's quick and easy to nominate them at [ESGR.org](http://ESGR.org). And I will be happy to send your employer a personal letter of thanks for supporting you in your Navy Reserve career. (See July TNR)

We volunteered to be in the Navy Reserve. Our employers most likely didn't have a choice. Let's all work together to honor these patriotic civilian employers who help ensure that as Navy Reserve Sailors, we can be "Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere!"

VADM Dirk Debbink  
Chief of Navy Reserve

FORCM Ronney A. Wright  
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

